

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nappier et al.

Attorney Docket No. BING-1-1045

Serial No.: 10/717,940

Group Art Unit: 3672

Filing Date: November 20, 2003

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR THRUST SENSING VALVES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information related to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, no additional fee is required.


The relevant publications are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, along with a return receipt postcard. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(2)(i), copies of references listed on the

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BING-1-1045TL02

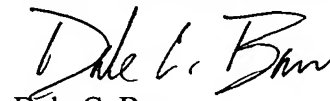
BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM PLLC


701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, Washington 98104
206 381 3300 • F. 206 381 3301

attached Form PTO-1449 are not enclosed. If the examiner requires copies of any of the references it is hereby requested that the examiner advise counsel accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}



Dale C. Barr

Registration No. 40,498

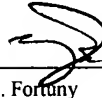
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MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.08 on the date indicated below addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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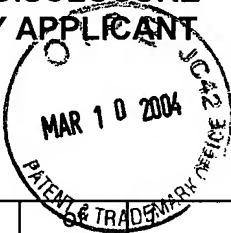
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701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, Washington 98104
206 381 3300 • F. 206 381 3301

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT 			<i>Complete if Known</i>		
			Application Number	10/717,940	
			Filing Date	November 20, 2003	
			First Named Inventor	Nappier et al.	
			Group Art Unit	3672	
			Examiner Name	Not yet assigned	
Sheet	1		Attorney Docket Number		BING-1-1045

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
	1.	4,063,707		Zouzoulas	12-20-1977
	2.	4,232,909		Farr	11-11-1980
	3.	4,818,444		Hedderick et al.	04-04-1989
	4.	4,898,362		Leon	02-06-1990
	5.	5,257,535	A	Evans	11-02-1993
	6.	5,430,368	A	Leon	07-04-1995
	7.	5,432,436	A	Leon et al	07-11-1995
	8.	5,538,036	A	Bergamini et al.	07-23-1996

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee of Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	T ⁶
		Office ³ Code	Number ⁴	Kind ⁵ (if known)			

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2. See Kind Codes of U.S. Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4. For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete including gathering, preparing and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22315-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22315-1450.